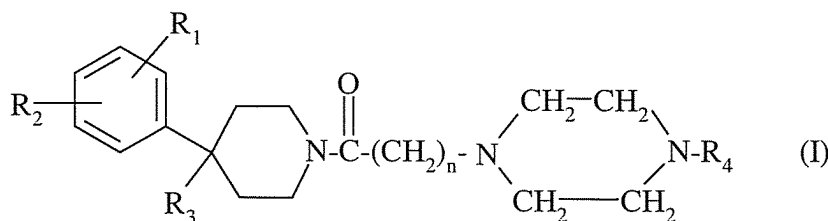


Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

IN THE CLAIMS:

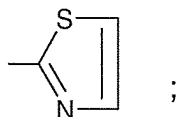
The claims set forth below with amendments as indicated will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A compound of formula (I):



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- R₁ represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R₃ represents a hydrogen atom; a group -OR₅; a group -CH₂OR₅; a group -NR₆R₇; a group -NR₈COR₉; a group -NR₈CONR₁₀R₁₁; a group -CH₂NR₁₂R₁₃; a group -CH₂NR₈CONR₁₄R₁₅; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxycarbonyl; or a group -CONR₁₆R₁₇;
- or else R₃ constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;
- R₄ represents the aromatic group 1,3-thiazol-2-yl of formula:



- R₅ represents a hydrogen atom; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or a (C₁-C₄)alkylcarbonyl;
- R₆ and R₇ represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

- R₈ represents a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
 - R₉ represents a (C₁-C₄)alkyl or a group -(CH₂)_m-NR₆R₇;
 - m is 1, 2 or 3;
 - R₁₀ and R₁₁ represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
 - R₁₂ represents a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₅)alkyl;
 - R₁₃ represents a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₅)alkyl, a group -(CH₂)_q-OH or a group -(CH₂)_q-S-CH₃;
 - or else R₁₂ and R₁₃, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from aziridine, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine and morpholine;
 - q is 2 or 3;
 - R₁₄ and R₁₅ represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
 - R₁₆ represents a hydrogen atom or a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
 - R₁₇ represents a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₄)alkyl or a group -(CH₂)_q-NR₆R₇;
 - or else R₁₆ and R₁₇, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine and piperazine which is unsubstituted or substituted in position 4 by a (C₁-C₄)alkyl;
- or an acid addition salt ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claim 2. (Previously presented): A compound according to Claim 1 wherein:

- n is 1;
- R₁ is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R₂ represents a hydrogen atom; or else R₁ is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R₂ is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom; and
- R₃ represents a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, or a (dimethylamino)methyl; or else R₃ constitutes a double bond between

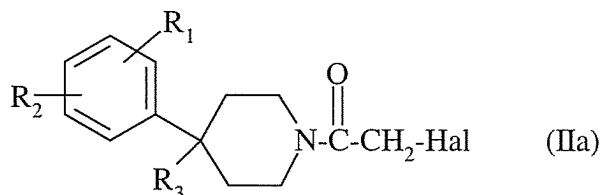
the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

- R₄ represents a 1,3-thiazol-2-yl.

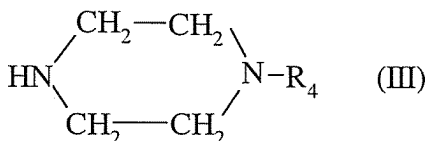
Claim 3. (Currently amended): A process for preparing a compound according to

Claim 1

wherein a compound of formula (IIa)



in which R₁, R₂ and R₃ are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, ~~with the proviso that when R₃ contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected,~~ is reacted with a compound of formula (III)



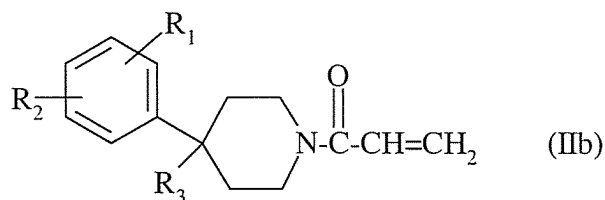
in which R₄ is as defined in Claim 1;

~~and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R₃ where appropriate.~~

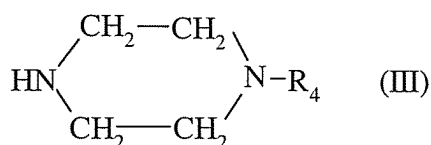
Claim 4. (Currently amended): A process for preparing a compound according to

Claim 1 in which n = 2

wherein a compound of formula (IIb)

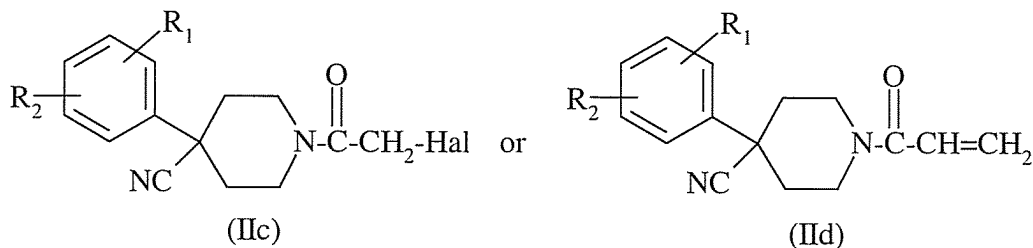


in which R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined in Claim 1, ~~with the proviso that when R_3 contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)~~

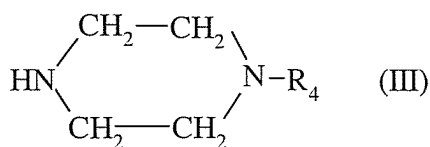


in which R_4 is as defined in Claim 1;
~~and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R_3 where appropriate.~~

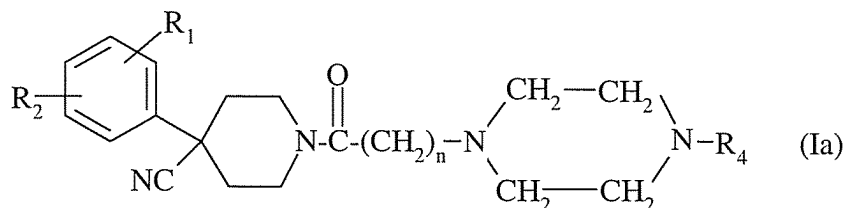
Claim 5. (Previously presented): A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which R_3 represents a group $-\text{CH}_2\text{NR}_{12}\text{R}_{13}$ in which R_{12} and R_{13} each represent hydrogen wherein a compound of formula (IIc) or (IId)



in which R_1 and R_2 are as defined in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

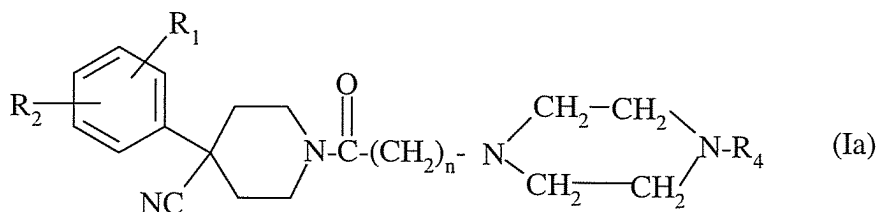


in which R₄ is as defined in Claim 1 to give a compound of formula (Ia)



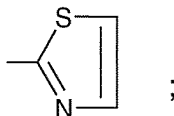
and the cyano group of the compound of formula (Ia) is reduced.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A compound of formula



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- R₁ represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C₁-C₄)alkyl; a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R₂ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; and
- R₄ represents the aromatic group 1,3-thiazol-2-yl of formula:



or an acid addition salt ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claims 7 - 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1-(2*H*)-pyridinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-(aminomethyl)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-hydroxy-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methylphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-methoxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;
- 1-[4-[(methylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;

or an acid addition salt, ~~hydrate or solvate~~ thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Application Ser. No.: 10/516,808
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Examiner: Leaser, Erich A.

Claim 12. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 13. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 10 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 14. - 16 (Canceled)